SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON LIPOA POINT.

WHEREAS, the new acquisition of Lipoa Point presents significant challenges for the Department of Land and Natural Resources regarding the management of a vast, porous, and complex land; and

WHEREAS, Lipoa Point consists of two hundred forty-four acres of natural pristine land, forest, coastline, and open space once used to grow pineapple; and

WHEREAS, Lipoa Point includes an access trail to the Honolua-Mokuleia Bay marine life conservation district that is heavily used by snorkelers, a heavily used unimproved access road that leads to scenic views of the coastline, and trail access used by many surfers; and

WHEREAS, Lipoa Point's primary public value in its current condition is as an open space with key access points to the shoreline with associated cultural values, wildlife preservation, and access to the ocean for recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, many issues arise with the acquisition of this new parcel, such as public safety, security, sanitation, resource protection, and appropriate land management; and

WHEREAS, a plan is critical in managing an area so vast and with many competing public interests, and it requires the coordination of several respective departmental divisions and collaboration with community stakeholders; however, there is no departmental division authorized with the collective authority, skills, or responsibilities to ensure the best use of Lipoa Point; and

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WHEREAS, there are community resources available to assist in developing a community-based management plan to assist the Department of Land and Natural Resources and thereby minimize the outlay of resources dedicated to this project; and

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WHEREAS, there is a need for a plan to provide the basis of management direction that balances the obligation to protect the quality of the waters, determine stakeholders' interests, and clearly define the ancillary long-term policies, goals, and costs associated with public use; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to submit, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016, a report to the Legislature on Lipoa Point, including:

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(1) Recommendations on the feasibility of establishing a Lipoa Point Management Council to explore options to protect and preserve the area's condition, provide support for the community, preserve cultural and recreational access, and protect the pristine marine environment;

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(2) Recommendations on resources required to protect and preserve Lipoa Point; and

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(3) Any proposed legislation; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Mayor of the County of Maui, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, Save Honolua Coalition, and Aha Moku Council for Maui.

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